

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [21] with the following amended paragraph:

According to some preferred embodiments of the invention, the retrieval and caching system 201 operates as a read-through cache. Thus, when a user requests data from the retrieval and caching system 201, the retrieval and caching system 201 first checks its own cache 211 for the requested data. If the cache 211 does not yet contain the requested data, then the request is "read-through" to the remote computer 127. That is, if the cache 211 does not contain the requested data, the retrieval and caching system 201 retrieves the requested data from the remote computer ~~217~~ 127, and provides it to the user. The retrieval and caching system 201 also updates the contents of the cache 211 with the data retrieved from the remote computer ~~217~~ 127 for future access by the user.

Please replace paragraph [34] with the following amended paragraph:

Still another triggering event may occur if the user requests to view the contents of a particular message displayed in the user's portable electronic mail account. If the cache 211 does not already contain these contents, then the trigger unit 207 generates a trigger specifying an update operation that updates the third-highest level of hierarchical information for the specific electronic mail message identified in the request. In response to this trigger, the retrieval and caching system 201 will then update the content for this message in the cache 211 with the content of this message in the user's regular electronic mail account.

Please replace paragraph [39] with the following amended paragraph:

In addition to specific requests for an update operation from the user, the trigger unit 207 may also generate a trigger in response to predictive triggering information (i.e., the trigger unit 207 to generate a predictive trigger). For example, the user may routinely submit requests to the system 201 to retrieve and cache the entire text of all electronic mail messages authored by a particular person (e.g., the user's work supervisor). From this pattern, the trigger unit 207 may create a predictive indicator that the user will want to retrieve the entire text of all future electronic mail messages authored by that person. Accordingly, if the operation of the

notification engine 217 215 retrieves metadata indicating that the user's regular electronic mail account has received a new message from that particular person, the trigger unit 207 may be configured to generate a predictive trigger specifying an update operation that retrieves the contents of the new message into the cache 211.

Please replace paragraph [41] with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in Fig. 3, ~~After~~ after the trigger unit 207 issues a trigger, the retrieval and caching unit 201 initiates an update operation as specified by the trigger. First, in step 303, the retrieval and caching unit 209 identifies the level of information requested by the trigger. As previously noted, the trigger can request a specific level of information, or simply request that the next highest level of information be retrieved and cached. In step 305, the retrieval and caching unit 209 identifies the messages from which the information is to be retrieved. For example, the trigger may specify that information should be retrieved and cached from all of the electronic mail messages in a mailbox, just those messages sharing one or more properties (e.g., all messages received on a specific date), or a particular electronic mail message. Of course, those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the order of steps 303 and 305 may be reversed.

Please replace paragraph [55] with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention has been described above by way of specific exemplary embodiments, and the many features and advantages of the present invention are apparent from the written description. Thus, it is intended that the appended claims cover all such features and advantages of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, the specification is not intended to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation ~~as~~ as illustrated and described. For example, the invention may include any one or more elements from the apparatus and methods described herein in any combination or subcombination. Accordingly, there are any number of alternative combinations for defining the invention, which incorporate one or more elements from the specification (including the drawings, claims, and summary of the invention) in any combinations or subcombinations. Hence, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be considered as falling within the scope of the appended claims.